

PHASE II OPPORTUNITIES

While the ultimate goal of the *San Joaquin River Bluff and Protection Initiative* is to fully implement and enforce all its provisions, certain provisions, such as reduced fuel zones, will require additional research and collaboration in order to be effectively implemented. Due to the City's reduced revenue, some of the provisions will likely have to be implemented in two phases and will be conditioned on cooperative agreements.

It is anticipated that Phase II of the *SJRBPI* will include additional provisions to expand reduced fuel zones to extend from 30 feet to 100 feet. As before, no individual will be responsible for maintaining defensible space on property they do not own. The *Task Force* will work in collaboration with the Fresno Fire Department, North Central Fire, City staff, the Counties of Fresno and Madera and other property owners to find strategies to maintain this additional defensible space.

- The anticipated provisions in Phase II would encompass the following: “reduced fuel zone” will be defined as an area between thirty (30) and one hundred (100) feet of an occupied dwelling in which dangerous accumulation of brush, flammable vegetation or combustible growth is to be removed.

Within this “reduced fuel zone” the following would apply:

- Grass and vegetation located more than thirty feet from the dwelling or structure and no more than four (4) inches in height above the ground may be maintained where necessary to stabilize the soil.
- Downed logs and dead trees within one hundred (100) feet from a structure and embedded in the soil will be removed unless they are isolated from other vegetation. Standing dead trees that are placed approximately one (1) per acre and are well spaced from other vegetation and which will not fall on buildings or across roadways may be retained.
- Maintain minimum vertical and horizontal clearance of four (4) to forty (40) feet in all directions between fuels.
- In large stands of trees with a continuous tree canopy may be retained if all surface fuels greater than four (4) inches in height are removed and lower limbs of trees are pruned to between six (6) feet and fifteen (15) feet in height.

The *Task Force* will work to seek funding for the maintenance of the proposed reduced fuel zone through various grants and other funding sources.